Country	Office	Mission/Post
Uzbekistan	Embassy of India	Tashkent
Venezuela	Embassy of India	Caracas
Vietnam	Embassy of India	Hanoi
	Consulate General of India	Ho Chi Minh City
Yemen	Embassy of India	Sana'a
Yugoslavia	Embassy of India	Belgrade
Zambia	High Commission of India	Lusaka
Zimbabwe	High Commission of India	Harare

Note:

1. Total number of countries : 116
2. Total number of mission/Posts as under : 158

Embassies	High Commissions	Consulates General	Special Missions	Other Missions/ Posts	Total
84	30	29	3	12	=158

Settlement of Sir Creek Dispute

1582. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts have been made to settle Sir Creek dispute between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether there is any plan for negotiations on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have held discussions on the Sir Creek issue with the Government of Pakistan on six previous occasions. The last meeting on the issue was held on 9 November 1998 in New Delhi as part of the composite dialogue process. During these discussions, Government pointed out that the boundary in the area had already been settled on the basis of the Resolution of 1914. Furthermore, in 1925, maps had been published based on the

demarcation established by the 1914 Resolution which showed the boundary in the middle of the Sir Creek. Government, therefore, proposed to the Government of Pakistan that as the boundary had already been accepted as settled and demarcated by both India and Pakistan, this should now be formalised. Government further proposed that pending the formalisation of the boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards by commencing at the Exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards could be considered.

India remains committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through direct bilateral dialogue. Pakistan needs to facilitate the resumption of the process by abandoning its sponorship of crossborder terrorism and ceasing its hostile propaganda against India.

Protest by Tibetan refugees against Chinese delegations

†1583. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that whenever any Chinese delegation or leader visits India, the Tibetan refugees protest against them and as a result of which Indo-China relations are affected;

(b) if so, whether Government have tried to talk to Dalai Lama in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government's consistent policy in regard to Tibet is that it is an autonomous region of China. India has close historical and cultural ties with Tibet. The presence of Tibetans in India is to be seen in this context. Government do not permit Tibetans to engage in political activities. Activities that disrupt law and order are dealt with in accordance with our legal provisions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.